Eye on the Board p.2

Steel Workers p.4

Sports p.5

School Notes p.6

MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!"

Call 562-2510

Vol. 1V, No. 3 **New Haven 20¢** June 1–14, 1973

Nick Heyer

Children play at the Newhallville day-care center—one of those threatened by the "model" center to be set up in an abandoned Olin gymnasium.

Olin Model Daycare vs. Neighborhood Centers

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

In the newspapers it looked good. Olin Corporation has a "social conscience." The proof? A plan by Olin to donate part of an old gym to the city of New Haven, which would be renovated (at state cost) and run (at state cost) as a model day care center by South Central Community College.

As one city staff-member put it, "Olin wants the community to like them." So far, however, the plan—announced by Governor Meskill on February 5th—has made more enemies than friends among New Haveners. The opposition comes both from the neighborhood and the city day care community.

Teddy Glover, director of the United Newhallville day care center, said, "A letter was read to me that stated the Olin center would have to have 100 children even if it meant closing the two nearest neighborhood centers. Our program shouldn't be jeopardized either in terms of children or funds. We want some assurances beforehand, and some community representatives on any board that runs the center."

Michela Kloepher, program coordinator of the Office of Human Services at city hall, commented, "It makes sense if you're sitting in an office in Hartford. It's good publicity to have the city, state and private industry working together. They think, 'We'll just incorporate the little neighborhood centers.'"

Alderman Fred Wilson, Jr. of the 20th Ward felt strongly. "We are definitely opposed to this center. There has been no grass-roots input on this plan. The center would draw kids from the existing centers. Olin is in the business of making guns, not of raising other people's kids. There has to be community input on the board of directors."

Who Will Pay?

The question of where the money will come from to operate the program and to renovate the building is a loaded one. At *the moment no funds have been set aside* to operate the new day care center in Olin's building. Vivian Newsome of Community Progress Inc. (CPI)—the agency which would actually pass the state money to the center—was non-committal. "There's a problem of money—I don't see it going anywhere until there is some legislative action. Everyone is standing pat waiting to see what they'll do."

Since the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) commissioner did not ask for funds to expand the day care program in his current budget request, however, there would not be money to operate a new center in New Haven this year.

"Of course we need more and better day care but it is alarming when any new center is to be established here," said Karen Cook, director of the Neighborhood Nursery. "Day care people have no say in these decisions." Yet they must make do with less than adequate funds when the pie has to be cut into still smaller pieces.

Money to renovate the building has been (at least verbally) approved, however. While one state-funded day care center presently operated in New Haven has been forced to relocate in temporary quarters because its facilities are so badly in need of repair, Olin's plan has been promised $100,000 for renovations. This is additional fuel to the community's opposition.

"Olin could afford to set up something without state money," one day care center director fumed, "why should state funds be given to a giant corporation? The big people can get their hands on the money—the little neighborhood centers can't."

Where is this money coming from exactly? Apparently there is a special "bonded fund" which contains unspent DCA money from several years ago. The governor has to approve any expenditure from this fund and it is reportedly "hard to get at." Connecticut towns are eligible for some of the money—for building improvements only—under the Neighborhood Facilities Grant.

City architects have stated that the money promised for renovation is inadequate

[see OLIN, page 7]

Six Week Strike At Avco Settled

As this story went to press on May 25th, the Avco-Lycoming strike was settled when members accepted a new contract which included a 5% wage increase for each of the three years in the new contract. Also included was a new dental program, 25% deductible with a $600 maximum payment. Other gains were increased sickness and accident insurance, maternity benefits, legal abortion and vasectomy coverage, incerases in vacations and an added holiday. The total package for the three years adds up to $ .92 an hour.

by Mike F. Holodnak

Local 1010, United Auto Workers Union, representing 1,900 production workers in Stratford, has been on strike against Avco-Lycoming since April 14.

The Bridgeport area Chamber of Commerce (a business-oriented organization) in a press release on May 4, decried the strike for its adverse economic impact on the area. It also attempted to create sympathy for this giant corporation's so-called business hardships, adding that "no one wins in a strike."

But nowhere did the Chamber mention that strikes are Avco's mode of operation. At practically every contract expiration the company deliberately proposes contracts it knows in advance will be totally unacceptable to the union members.

Try to Destroy Union

Then at each ensuing strike it sends letters to union members in an attempt to divide and destroy the union. When that fails the company then grudgingly negotiates in good faith and the dispute is settled only to be followed by the same pattern at the next contract expiration.

In short, last April 15, the union members again voted unanimously for a strike, not because they like to impose economic hardships on themselves and the community but because Avco's management forces them to do so.

The Chamber also noted that "Avco division has donated thousands of dollars to local charities." But it failed to mention that the bulk of the donations came, not from the company, but from the voluntary contributions made by the very employees who are currently striking Avco.

Wage Offer Only 4%

The company's final offer in this year's

[see EXECUTIVE, page 3]

WHFT Selects Officers

Nick Heyer

The West Haven Federation of Teachers have selected their candidates for office for the next term. From left to right, in the first row are, Anne Cawley, Secretary, and Dennis Dostert, Treasurer; standing in the rear are Stan Heller, President, and Chris Bannon, Vice President. These candidated are unopposed, and are being installed at the May 30th meeting.

Eye On The Board Public Kept In Dark On City Budget

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

The virus of secrecy is again infecting New Haven's political body. An important aldermanic debate, on the city budget, took place on May 18 behind closed doors.

After debating the issue for two hours at a non-public, Democratic majority, caucus—surprisingly attended by 29th ward Republican alderman Rosalind Berman—the board voted to approve New Haven's 74.5 million dollar budget. As long as the Democratic majority invited Ms. Berman, they should have held the debate in public and let the rest of us in on it.

An unsettling aspect of the formulation and approval of the budget is that all of the discussion and debate about it took place out of public view. At no time did the members of the Board of Finance, who are appointed by Mayor Guida and receive $25 per meeting, allow the public to present their views on taxation and spending priorities.

The finance board drew up the budget and presented it to the aldermen. The aldermen with no staff and little time for study then had to approve a budget the majority of them did not understand.

Secrecy Continues

The aldermen, victims of the Board of Finances's secrecy, themselves became secretive and held their debate on the budget behind closed doors. They issued only brief majority favorable and minority unfavorable reports after meeting as a committee of the whole.

Following secret discussions on the budget in their caucus the aldermen appeared for the public meeting. What passed for a debate was, in reality, a couple of aldermen making politically expedient statements, on minor budgetary issues, for public consumption.

An example of debate on a minor issue is the current flap over salary increases for the underticket (the elected officials below the mayor in the city administration).

Edward Piazza (D-15) introduced an amendment to delete the proposed salary increases for the underticket. In doing so, he was probably reacting to pressure from the Concerned Citizens tax group.

Two of Piazza's Democratic colleagues sought to limit the scope of his amendment. Louis Aceto (D-6) moved to exempt the two registrars of voters and Pasquale Fasulo (D-10) wanted to exempt the city clerk from Piazza's amendment. Both motions failed to pass.

The debate dragged on until Fred Wilson (D-20) ended the squabbling by proposing that the board reconsider the issue of salary increases at it's next meeting on June 4.

Basic Problems Ignored

The furor over the proposed raises for the underticket diverts attention from the true problems with the city's budget. The key issue is not the small amount of money allocated for salary increases. It is how the money, spent by the city, is raised. With the exception of Joseph Bartlett (D-2), who pointed out that the city has not had a revaluation of property since 1964, no alderman questioned the current method by which the city acquires revenue.

The aldermen must address themselves to the question of how the current tax system, which places a disproportionate tax burden on the working people of New Haven, can be modified.

Alternative methods of taxation are: 1) a graduated property tax, 2) the taxation of currently tax-exempt institutions. (such as Yale) at the same rate as personal property, and 3) the taxation of common stocks. Such alternatives must be studied and legislation to implement them recommended to the state legislature if further deterioration of public services is to be prevented.

At their next meeting on June 4th, the aldermen will vote on the teachers' contract. An analysis of the Boards' discussion will appear in the next issue of **Modern Times.**

Nick Heyer

Board of Aldermen President Vincent Mauro (D-3) during the latest public meeting of the Board.

Community Notes

Morning Sun Sponsors Discussion

There will be an open community meeting for parents, teachers, and anyone interested to talk about alternatives to the present public schools and pre schools. The meeting will take place at Morning Sun School, 2105 State Street in Hamden on Tuesday, June 5 at 8:00 P.M.

F.H.N.C. Blasts Renewal Agency

$500,000 is on its way to the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC) as part of 3 million dollars allocated to the New Haven Renewal Agency from the federal government. In a May 21 press release the FHNC raises the big question of exactly what will be done with this money. So far, the FHNC has received no specific word.

Frank Annunziato, President of the F.H.N.C. stated "We have never been opposed to renewal in principle, but we have always had serious objections to what we consider to be a half-baked plan. We strenuously oppose the wholesale spot acquisition and demolition of residential properties without a specific plan."

"We would like to know what this $500,000 will be used for," Annunziato went on. "If it's going to be used to destroy Grand Avenue properties in order to build a new bridge over the Quinnipiac River, then we think this is a serious waste of money from the taxpayers. There has never been any evidence to support the need for a new bridge. A new bridge would not in the least benefit the people of Fair Haven, but would benefit only a few rich businessmen who own property on Grand Avenue, but do not even live in the neighborhood."

Would Destroy Neighborhood

"If the $500,000 is to be used for spot clearance, without a specific plan, we think that the whole character of the neighborhood could possibly be destroyed. Moreover, we are still not aware of any plans for relocation. We have been asking to see these plans for years now and always there has been no response."

Annunziato continued, "We also must ask whether any part of the $500,000 will be used to continue the activities of the Project Area Committee. If so, we must unequivocably oppose this allocation. The P.A.C. is controlled by a group of landlords and businessmen, most of whom do not even live in the project area. For example, the president of P.A.C., Frank Nasti, is a resident of North Haven. Most recently this group has published a scandalous newsletter, with agency funds, that has caused considerable hostility in the Neighborhood. We see no reason why any money should be allocated to support this group of outsiders who represent only their own self-interests and not the interests of the working and poor people of Fair Haven."

"If the $500,000 is to be used for rehabilitation of existing properties and to encourage home-ownership, then we would applaud this allocation and would ask for ten times that amount. Unfortunately, our experience with the renewal agency and their self-perpetuating P. A. C., suggests that very little, if any, of the monies would be put aside for those ends."

Freddy Fixers Proudly Parade

Nick Heyer

Enthusiastic marchers in the 11th Freddy Fixer Parade underline the Black community's determination to build pride in the City of New Haven. The Parade, a yearly event since 1963, was originally encouraged by the Redevelopment Agency to foster unity among neighborhoods. This year's event, held on May 20, emphasized the important role Black youth will play in the future.

I cannot tell a lie — this axe chopped down the cherry tree ..... so I suppose I must accept responsibility for it...
AIDES
PRESIDENTIAL PURITY

Labor Notes

Compare These Figures:

Corporate profits zoomed in the first quarter of 1973 at an annual after-tax rate of $62 billion--23 percent higher than the first quarter rate of 1972, according to a new survey by Business Week Magazine.

The survery, covering 873 companies in 36 separate industries, noted also that profits were 6.6 percent greater than the record $57.2 billion rate set during the fourth quarter of 1972.

The steel industry led the boom with earnings up by 84 per cent in the first three months of this year. Paper makers were second with first-quarter profits up by 70 percent. The building materials industry was next with gains increasing by 65 percent.

"The most impressive thing about the quarter's profits picture was its breadth and uniformity," Business Week observed. "The pattern in industry after industry was a profits gain of 20 percent to 30 percent."

The most spectacular profits leap was scored by the aerospace firm of Curtiss-Wright, up 855 percent during the first quarter of the year. Fairchild Camera & Instrument led the electrical group with an increase of 477 percent while Hammermill Paper rose 360 percent. International Harvester was up 353 percent, and American Motors went up 345 percent.

Let's Take A Look At Who Is doing What To Us. Then Let's Decide What We Are Going To Do About It.

...While our **WAGES** have been held to an average increase of less than 5%, **PRODUCTIVITY** has gone up and up, in some industries as much as 18%.

...While **OUR SHARE** of federal income taxes has risen from 70% to 77% since 1969, **The Share Paid By Corporations** has dropped from 30% to 23%.

...**CORPORATION PROFITS** are higher than ever. In the last three months of 1972, they milked us for more than 8 billion dollars in profit--up 22% over 1971.

...**FOOD PRICES** rose 11.6% in 1972 alone.

...**SPENDING FOR WAR**--a major cause of inflation--continues at the rate of more than 75 billion dollars a year.

Union Fights Meskill Politicking In Conn. State Job Merit System

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

Have a job with the State of Connecticut? Want a raise? If so, you may be asked to join the Republican Party. That's the way Tom Lyon, President of the Connecticut State Employees Association has heard it.

"As far as I know several people have come forth and told me that they were informed by various persons that their raise might be considered faster if they switched their party affiliation from Democrat or Independent to the Republican Party. "

Right now there are seven pay levels within each job classification. Attorney Edward Gallant, Executive Director of the Association, estimates that over half the 22,000 employees they represent earn less than $7,500 a year.

Politics in Merit System?

"What bothers us", said Gallant, "is whether politics has been brought into the merit system. One of our basic incorporating statements is that we will defend and enhance the merit system."

The CSEA is holding a special convention June 1 at Hartford High School to consider the whole question of political involvement of state employees. A vote will be taken on a "direct no-holds barred entry into the political arena." Tom Lyon indicated that there was the possibility of a vote on a "work-stoppage", but he hastened to add that he didn't think that would be appropriate.

Collective Bargaining

Another long-standing controversy has been the issue of collective bargaining. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents a smaller number of state employees, has long castigated the state and the CSEA for their weak stand on collective bargaining. There was a recent bill to allow it, which never got past the governor.

Gallant said of the governor: "I think he would like to have collective bargaining, but he would like to have it on his own terms. Right now we need an executive order to compel the agency heads to sit down and bargain with us." Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have criticized the CSEA officials in the past for working against collective bargaining legislation to secure their own staff jobs, which would be jeopardized by the advent of collective bargaining.

State employees have long worked under trying conditions. Aside from low pay, there are no cost-of-living increases, as such. Further, it may take ten years for an employee to progress through the seven pay levels, and even this often brings only a negligible increase. State employees do like the pension plan and possible retirement benefits, but these mean less in an era of rapid inflation.

Executive Increase - 10%

[continued from page 1]

negotiations was 4% for the first year of a new three year contract, a sum below even Tricky Dicky's unrealistic 5½% wage guidelines. The Union was willing to accept even the 4% if it had provisions for wage openers after one year. But the company refused.

The company's offer of a dental plan was not only weak but would not begin until the third year of the contract. Also, the company insisted on the carrier being Metropolitan (with whom the union has had unpleasant past experiences) instead of Blue Cross which the union wanted.

All in all the company's total wage and benefit package broken down like this: 4% of $4.67 (base rate for three years) comes to 58 cents. Add another 16 cents for cost of living, and another 12 cents for all other increases and it all comes to only 86 cents.

Yet, on Palm Sunday, the morning of the union strike meeting, the company, in an effort to try to divide the union, made spot announcements on radio.

Then, after the union members voted unanimously to strike, the company sent out letters to their homes, and got press coverage with statements that the company's offer was worth $1.10 which simple arithmetic showed to be only 86 cents.

Slick Publicity

While the company juggled fringe benefits costs in the press, the union calculated the cost of these benefits to be only a fraction of a penny per hour for the average worker.

The union has pointed out to its members that "Avco is a haven for high paid political hacks called Executives who gave themselves raises up to 10% and increased their pensions by 90% last June 15th."

The union also stated: "After agreeing with the mediator not to make public statements they renege on that agreement by mailing a distorted letter filled with lies and aimed at terrorizing our wives and families."

The union is confident "that the members will support their Negotiating Committee as they did in 1967 (a strike at which this reporter was a picket captain) under a Taft-Hartley Injunction and in 1970 through through a nine week strike."

Also striking the plant are 200 office and professional workers of Local 376 whose contract expired April 21 although the company shut down operations two days earlier.

Leaders of Local 376 are seeking legal advice over this early shutdown, which they claim is in reality a "lock-out."

"Union Shop" Means Strength At YNHH

from the Concerned Hospital Workers Newsletter

The Union Shop is one of the big issues in the Dietary contract negotiations. Under a union shop, every Dietary worker would have to join the union. Of course, the Hospital is against the union shop -- they would prefer an open shop where some Dietary workers would be in the union and others would not be.

We, the Concerned Hospital Workers, feel that a union shop is absolutely necessary to safeguard the rights we have fought so hard to win. Besides -- it's only fair to make everyone in Dietary join the union, since everyone will receive all of the benefits and protection of the union.

Without a union shop we and our coworkers would be split apart from each other. The bosses would be able to weaken the union by persuading workers -- especially new workers -- not to join. And as Abraham Lincoln put it, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Without everyone in the union, it would be practically impossible for us to win all the rights and benefits we need and deserve.

If you want to know what it's like without the union shop, take a look at the South, where the union shop is outlawed. That's why the unions are weaker there and the wages are lower than in any other part of the country. If Yale-New Haven wants to have it Southern-style in Dietary, they have another thing coming.

Editorial

Meskill Manipulates Conn. Taxes

Governor Meskill has recently been charged with building up a surplus of millions of dollars of tax money over the past year, planning to further increase this amount (through inflated estimates) in his budget for next year.

State Senator Anthony Ciarlone has speculated that with a surplus of over $100 million Meskill will have plenty of funds to lower the sales tax to 5½% and drop the tax on utility bills altogether in the summer preceding the election. He sees obvious political motivation.

"Meskill has to do something dramatic to enhance his image with the working person; the average voting person has become disenchanted with him over the past two years." Cynics will respond - so what else is new? Politicians are always manipulating tax policy to get votes.

There's something else going on here, however. Four changes were made in state taxation this year. The sales tax that everyone pays was reduced by ½% (and it could have been more from what we hear).

In addition corporations got increased deductions, people who make profits selling stock got an increased exemption, and people who get stock dividends will no longer pay tax on that income at all. One plus for working people. Three pluses for corporations and the rich. Will Meskill be able to make us forget this kind of arithmetic next year?

Write On

To the Editor:

Those "bleeding hearts" who prefer love over war, forgiveness over revenge, tenderness over rugged individualism are outright traitors to our profit system. Why, they could set such a bad example against killing that some day it might even cause young men to refuse to march into bloody battles to patriotic military tunes.

Perhaps some prayers should be offered up for those poor misguided individuals so that they might some day see the light and return to avarice, hate and the throat-cutting competition that have made this country what it is today.

Our law of the jungle, predatory, dog-eat-dog system is the only way to go. After all, why should we be good, kind and decent when being bad is more profitable.

Let us all gratefully get down on our hands and knees to worship our sacred profit system so that we can be assured of living in the richest country in the world where drugs, crimes, immoralities and wars will continue to be our most important product.

Mike F. Holodnak

To the Editor:

As a former *Modern Times* worker-enthusiast, I was quite proud to see that *Modern Times* local coverage has been picked up by several national presses. It shows that whether or not New Haveners are aware of it, the spotlight is often on their struggles.

For over a year now I have been working on the lettuce boycott in New Mexico. Although we have had great success here, we are mainly depending on the boycott efforts in the East where union consciousness is so much greater.

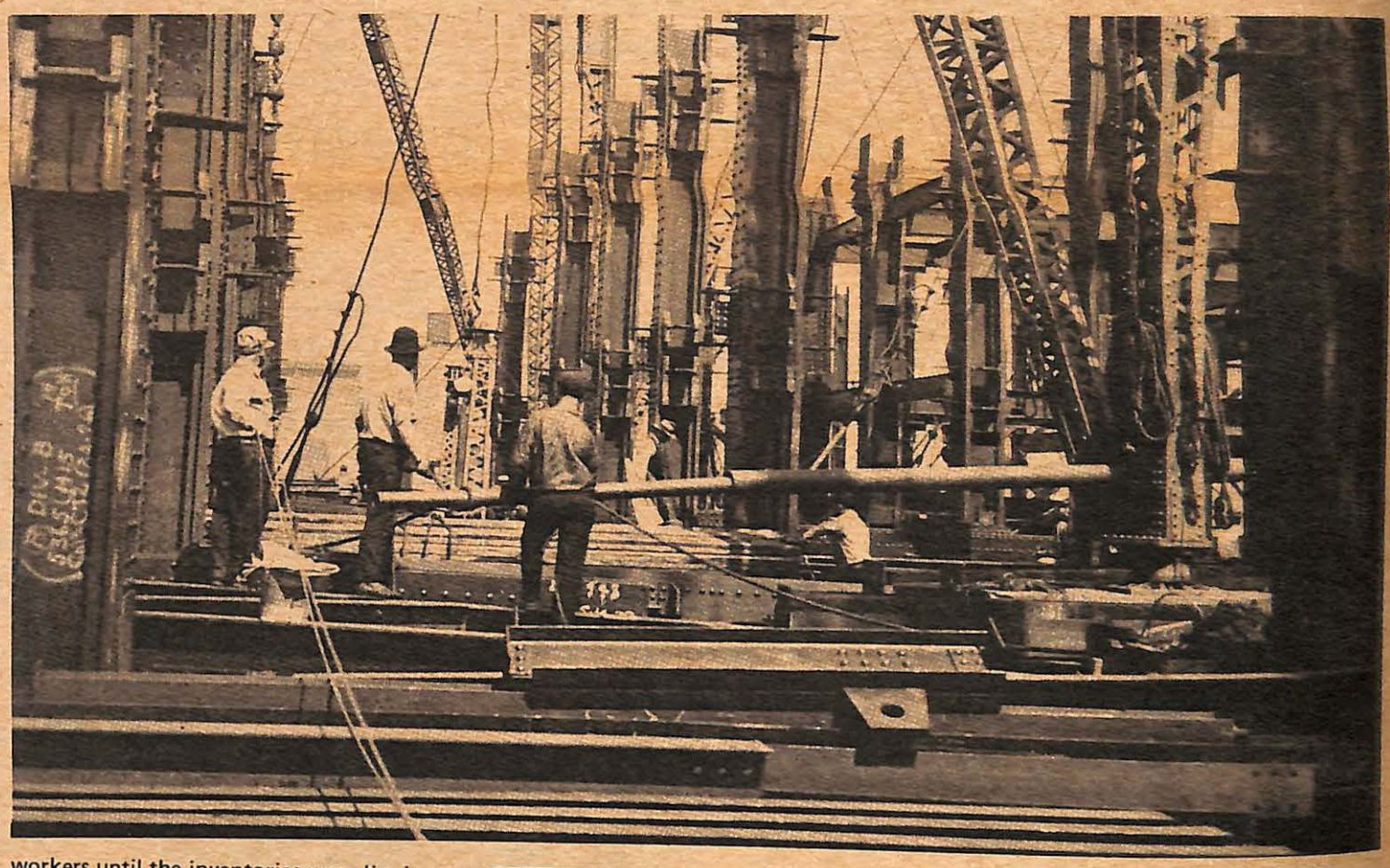
Our committee is truly a beautiful example of unity between ethnic groups. Chicanos and Anglos are working together as brothers and sisters in the campaign to boycott non-UFW lettuce and Safeway stores. In the East the boycott is directed against Kroger and A & P stores. The slogan of our struggle, seen on many a bumper sticker, is "Si, Se Puede" - translated roughly, "Of Course We can Win."

Steve Ellner
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Brass Tacks

New Steel Contract Weakens Union

by Joe Tinker



On March 26th, the United Steelworkers of America signed an agreement with ten major steel producers which is unique in the history of collective bargaining. The agreement sets the guidelines for the negotiation of a new contract which will go into effect in August, 1974.

The most important feature of this pre-contract contract is that the union relinquished its right to strike when the current contract expires. Contracts in the steel industry run for three years, and, thus, there will be 'labor peace' until 1977. I.W. Abel, president of the Steelworkers Union described the agreement as "The beginning of a new era in labor management relations in the United States."

The agreement was endorsed by **The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal** and George Meany. Rejection of the no-strike guarantee, came from union presidents Leonard Woodcock of the Auto Workers, Peter Bommarito of the Rubber Workers and Arnold Miller of the Mineworkers. James Hoffa summed up his feelings -- "I don't buy nothing that takes away the right of workers to strike."

Arbitration

Specifically, the agreement eliminates the possibility of a strike by substituting arbitration. The union and the companies agreed that if they can't arrive at a contract by April 15th, 1974, they will submit to arbitration all outstanding issues. The decisions of the arbitrator will be binding on both parties.

In addition to the arbitration provisions a couple of wage issues were also worked out: 1. a 3% yearly increase and cost of living benefits, and 2) a $150 bonus to each worker when the contract goes into effect in August, 1974.

In view of the fact that there hasn't been a strike in the steel industry since 1959, why did the union feel this type of agreement is necessary? In previous negotiations the steel companies and steel users stockpiled steel products in anticipation of a strike. When a strike did not occur, there were lay-offs of steel workers until the inventories were liquidated. This threat of post-negotiation lay-offs plus the historic tendency of the leadership of the Steelworkers to establish 'labor harmony' in the industry appear to be the major reasons for the no strike agreement.

Strikes Are Not Fun

In spite of all newspaper propaganda to the contrary, *workers do not like to go on strike.* Unions generally will do their utmost to avoid strikes. Strikes are forced upon workers by the hard-nosed attitudes adopted by employers.

Union members, and their leaders, are generally aware of the economic conditions of their employers and will often reduce their legitimate demands in the face of certain conditions. But they are also concerned with improving their own economic conditions and changing working conditions when necessary. They are the best judges of their own needs -- which is why they joined unions. So that they can be in a position to make decisions concerning their lives.

[See IMPARTIAL ARBITRATION, page 7]

Volume IV, Number 3
Circulation 4000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions: 148 Orange Street
Editorial Office: 441 Chapel Street

562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on **MODERN TIMES** is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news commercial papres run for profit. There is no place else where the work no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of the wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs. waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Danny Cahn, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Pat Sandacatta, Bob Sherry, Dave Spinner, Henry Tamarin, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

Puerto Rican Farmworkers Get Raw Deal

by Bonnie Thompson
Modern Times Staff

In 1948, under "Operation Bootstrap", the American government as "caretaker" of Puerto Rico began an incentive program for big business whereby American industries would not be taxed for 17 years if they set up factories in Puerto Rico. Americans buying land for speculation took most of the island's farmland out of cultivation.

Thus it is today that Puerto Rico is left with a huge balance of payment deficit, a need to import 95% of its basic foodstuffs and 50% agricultural unemployment and 60% of its farmland out of use.

Carlos Julia

Members of META deliver boxes of clothing to the Puerto Rican Farmworkers at Camp Windsor, Connecticut.

No Say in Contract

And so it is that every year four to six thousand Puerto Rican men of all ages leave their families and come to the north-eastern United States to do seasonal agricultural work. They come under a contract about which they have no say and in which have been found 22 violations of the laws of the United States.

They are paid from $1.65 to $1.85 an hour from which is deducted $17.50 a week for housing and three hot meals a day. Pretty good deal except that they have to stand in line to get fed which in the larger camps takes hours a day and sometimes the hot meal for breakfast is spaghetti and lunch is a sandwich and a piece of fruit.

If they want they can buy food at the farmowners' canteens — the workers can charge it and it will be deducted from their pay. The workers come in summer clothes from Puerto Rico arriving in cold weather in March, but they can buy clothes from the farmowners' clothes stores, charge it and it too will be deducted from their pay.

There is no transportation to any town so they must buy from the farmowner at his prices, at his choice of goods and on his terms, with the farmowner doing the bookkeeping.

Barracks is 'Home'

Housing is also provided. Lines of barracks, seen by few people, surrounded by high steel fences, with a cop at the gate. This will be "home" for these men for as long a period of time as nine months.

The men get up around four a.m., stand in line for a long time to eat what they are given. They are then taken by bus to the fields where they will work the hardest hand labor until sunset, working sometimes 10 to 12 hours a day, six, maybe seven days a week.

They can work as much or more than 84 hours a week on straight time and get no overtime pay. Then the bus ride "home" and another long wait in line for dinner. There is no recreation, no leisure activities or healthy outlets, just grueling work and more work.

The farmowners are supposed to provide religious facilities. In Camp Windsor, Connecticut, they have a chapel with no minister and no services any day of the week.

If a worker is Catholic, Pentacostal, Episcopalian or whatever — on Good Friday, when his family in Puerto Rico will go to church and to parties, here, alone, with no family, no services, no parties, he will probably just buy a bottle which oddly enough gets into the farm camp where ministers can't go and probably get good and drunk.

Hospital With No Doctors

The farmowners are supposed to provide hospital facilities. The OEO has provided funds for this purpose and at Camp Windsor, a half a million dollars a year goes to fund a hospital. There is a hospital, true, but with no doctors, and no registered nurses, only LPN's and a doctor on call at certain hours.

If a worker gets hurt when he is working in the fields, he will have to walk for help and probably be sent to the public hospital in the end where he will be bandaged up and sent back to Puerto Rico.

The farmowners pay the workers way here and back to Puerto Rico if the worker completes his term of contract. But (as it happens often) if the farmowner considers the worker insubordinate and fires him a week before the end of the contract the farmowner saves himself a little under $200!!

META Seeks Action

This terribly dehumanizing situation is now being brought to the public's attention by META, the Ministerio Ecumenical de Trabajadores Agricolas or the Ecumenical Ministry of Farmworkers represented here in Connecticut by Rev. Wilfredo Velez of the Church of the Disciples of Christ in Bridgeport along with Rev. William Loperena in New York City and Rev. Silva in New Jersey.

They are attempting to get the U.S. Courts to take action on the violations of U.S. law in the workers' contract and are working with CAMP, the Committee to Aid the Puerto Rican Migrant Worker in Puerto Rico to find jobs in Puerto Rico and put good Puerto Rican agricultural land back into use instead of leaving it to lie fallow as a tax dodge for American absentee landlords.

META wants to win: 1. the right to organize, 2. Social Security benefits for workers and 3. Workmen's Employment Compensation as a basis for more humane treatment of these workers, and fair pay for their work.

META's workers are attempting to get in to see the men, to win the right to visit with them as needed, to work with them to achieve some changes in this dehumanizing, unjust system.

What You Can Do

For information on a visit to your group to see a film and hear a talk by Rev. Wilfredo Velez, call him at 334-4975 in Bridgeport.

Write your legislators and voice your opinion that these men be allowed the basic rights of American working people.

Giants And Braves Break Records

by Edw. Breuler
Modern Times Staff

GIANTS AT THE BOWL

On Oct. 7, 1973, the New York Giants will meet the Green Bay Packers in the Yale Bowl. The Giants formerly of New York will be relocated in New Jersey in the next few years. In the meantime, they will play their home games in the 70 thousand plus Bowl.

Preceding this announcement, Mayor Guida of New Haven and Mayor Heffernan of West Haven have played games of their own kind before letting the Giants enter New Haven. It seems as though both were waiting for the right percentages of the concession stands before signing.

The games will be broadcast over WTIC-TV and people in New Haven will be able to see it -- provided the game is sold out one week in advance.

Get Ready Now

So sports fans, get your parkas ready for the big game. Don't forget the six pack for the 10 mile traffic jam, not to mention those week-long worries to see if the game is sold out. All are coming on Oct. 7. Good luck Giants. Good luck New Havenites.

AARON'S SITUATION

The state of Georgia is well known for its peaches and somebody is always having Georgia on their mind. Atlanta, Georgia is one of the centers of the south. Atlanta has the Atlanta Braves Baseball team. It in turn has a superstar known as Henry "Hank" Aaron. Henry "Hank " Aaron has his problems.

At the start of the present baseball season, Aaron needed only 41 homeruns to tie Babe Ruth's total of 714. As of May 17, he has hit 11 home runs and now only needs 31 to top the immortal Babe.

Record Breaker

Aaron will probably break this record but doing so will be difficult.

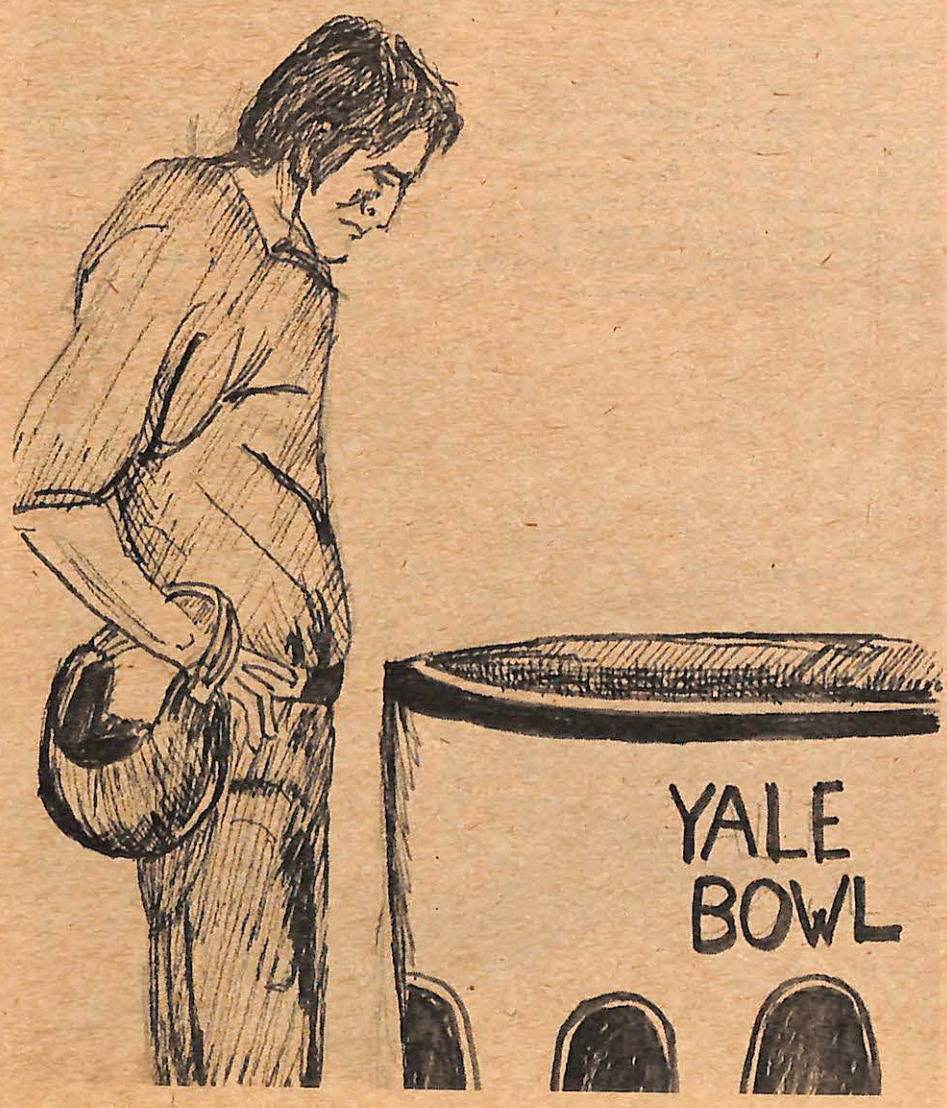
There are fans in Atlanta who would like nothing better than to have Aaron break the record. It is on Aaron's mind all the time. The pressure of surpassing the record for the 39 year-old slugger is heavy.

There are those however, who would like nothing better than to see Aaron fall on his face in disgrace. He gets mail from both sides-- mostly about how great it would be. But there are those who feel that for Aaron, a black man, to beat Ruth's record would be considered a disgrace to baseball.

How can the youth of our nation learn the tactful art of being a true sportsman/woman when this type of behavior exists?

Baseball, like other sports depends on sportsman/womanship to make it worthwhile to play and to teach others.

There will be a lot of happy people when Aaron breaks the record. I'll be one of them for two reasons. One, the mere fact that he was good enough to hit 715 and two, to put all those "bad" letters into the dead-letter box.



Teachers, Parents Meet To Improve City Schools

by Ruth Hein

"I've been teaching in the New Haven schools for five years, and I've come to the conclusion that I've failed," was the opening remark by teacher Fred Acquavita at a meeting sponsored by the New Haven Federation of Teachers' new Community Action Committee May 16.

The committee invited parents from every school in the city to this open meeting. The purpose: to admit to the parents that teachers alone cannot bring about change and to ask for help and support in planning ways to improve the quality of education.

Acquavita, a tenured teacher, opened the meeting by explaining that as long as the school administration can make its decisions without consulting the community, teachers are stymied in their efforts to try out some of the methods that have proved successful elsewhere.

As an illustration, he noted that while a number of area towns have contracted with the Teacher Center to hold workshops and give in-service training in new techniques to their staffs, New Haven has not made any use of this highly regarded resource right on the city's Green.

First United Meeting

This evening marked the first time that teachers had officially turned to parents (the coolness between the two groups has existed for a great many years), and these particular teachers were candid in admitting that they could not speak for all their coworkers — probably not even the majority.

The parents at the meeting, in turn, saw a chance to explain why there is community skepticism toward teachers; the new union clause guaranteeing no more than three parent-teacher conferences a year was given as one cause for the common view that the teachers' union has only economic and self-serving interests.

Once these divergent positions were out in the open, however, it was clear that there was also a great deal of good will on both sides. The meeting went on with astonishingly productive discussions as each of the teachers met with a smaller group in a series of workshops, divided into neighborhood segments.

Common Concerns

When, toward the end, the separate discussion results were pooled, it was found that certain concerns are common to all areas of the city. Parents, as well as teachers, want greater effectiveness for school councils; they worry about the lack of representation by Spanish-speaking parents and lack of involvement by all parents; they are frustrated by the administration's power to distribute supplies without being accountable, so that one school has new equipment while another lacks paper and pencils.

And there is general awareness of the underlying problem: the method of appointment to the Board of Education.

No one meeting can create change. But this group will meet again; hopefully, other teachers and more parents will join. What is certain even now is that the May 16 meeting kicked off a new citizens' action committee that will be around for a while.

Problems will come not only from outside — from "them" or "downtown". The lack of unity among teachers is matched by a divergence of aims among parents.

For example, the word "politics" was studiously avoided all evening by those who realized that education is a political issue in order not to alienate others whose orientation leads them to think of themselves as rugged individualists implementing the established channels.

But a little tact is not the same as selling out. Enough candid statements were made for one night to show that the group has the potential for surviving — and even being strengthened by — blunt speaking.

FHNC Backs High School Program

by Bob Aaronson

"We've changed our emphasis to education in the last three months." These are the words of Cathy Quinn the youth program director at the Fairhaven Neighborhood Corporation (FNC), who outlined the fledgling High School Equivalency testing program that is underway there. The program, which is a preparation for the state's high school equivalency test, is directed to those who have not completed their formal high school education.

It was started, according to Ms. Quinn, "because the board of directors of the FNC decided to give education the priority. We felt that there was an education crisis in the community and that we had to do a wide range of things; one of which is the High School Equivalency program."

The six-year-old FNC, which she described as "an anti-poverty organization", concerns itself with various projects such as family planning, Fairhaven housing, and youth programs. Employment counseling is also conducted there by a resident I.C.E. (Inner City Employment) worker.

The new program which began in February and works in three month cycles is open to anyone eighteen or over whose high school class graduated at least one year ago. The program is free and one can remain in it for an unlimited number of cycles depending on their level of education when they left high school.

Program Necessary

When discussing the need for such a program Ms. Quinn cited that Wilbur Cross High School alone had an approximately thirty per cent drop-out rate. "So you know that there are a lot of people who don't have their diploma and probably need it and would like to do something about it."

There are classes in basic math and first year algebra, natural science and English. All are taught by volunteer college graduates, three of whom are certified teachers.

She noted that some area high schools offer their own equivalency test preparation programs but that people who drop out of high school are often reluctant to return. The advantages of the Neighborhood Corporation's program include the fact that "the atmosphere here is more informal and it's an easier place to come to and there's not the same kind of pressure that there is at school." In the case of over-enrollment which she called "a welcome problem" classes can be broken up into a number of sections as is the math class right now.

Sequin

Algebra lessons for Miller Cunningham and Thersea Ford are conducted by volunteer teacher Susan Airone at the High School Equivalency program in Fair Haven.

Enrollment Increase Expected

Enrollment for the first cycle which is ending soon was limited to six applicants whose ages incidently ranged from eighteen to fifty. But enrollment will be greatly increased for the next cycle which begins in mid-June with classes being conducted on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9:30. Registration starts the week of May 20th and anyone is welcome to "drop in and fill out a registration form."

Although neither the program nor the test is administered in Spanish, Ms. Quinn mentioned plans for an "English as a second language" program which will hopefully start this summer at the Neighborhood Corporation. She also mentioned the fact that although the High School Equivalency program is free, the state charges a three dollar fee for the test and a two dollar fee for the diploma.

Funding a Problem

Lack of funding appears to be the only haunting spectre that could dry up the program. Expenses are low but the Corporation is unsure now whether future funds will come directly from the state or whether they will pass through the city first. Problems might arise if the second instance were to occur.

Ms. Quinn ended with a plea for volunteers to help in this specific program as well as in any other in the FNC. "If people want to volunteer to work in this program they are more than welcome. We really need volunteers, and anyone who wants their high school diploma is welcome to come down, especially since we're starting registration now."

The Fairhaven Neighborhood Corporation is located at 339 Grand Ave. Call 562-3125.

Meatless Meal - Try It, You'll Like It

A lot of our readers and staff members complained that during the meat boycott one meal of noodles and cheese tasted pretty much like the next meal of cheese and noodles. Since meat prices are still high and are likely to stay that way for a long time, we have decided to print a series of recipes for meatless meals to bring a little variety to our lives. If you have any favorites, please send them in and we will be happy to share them with our readers.

RICE CONFETTI

1 cup raw brown rice cooked
oil as needed
1 small onion chopped
1 cup mixed dry fruit chopped
2/3 cup mixed nuts chopped (or substitute the cheaper sunflower seeds and peanuts)
1/3 cup sesame seeds
1/4 teaspooon cloves powdered
1/2 teaspooon salt
3 tablespoons melted margarine

In hot oil sauté onion, fruit, nuts, sesame seeds till onion golden. Stir in cloves and salt. Mix with cooked rice. Place in casserole. Pour margarine on it. Bake 15-20 minutes at 350 degrees.

This recipe procudes 4 servings. One serving provides 20% of an adult's daily protein requirement. Members of the *Modern Times* staff have tested it and guarantee your eating pleasure.
(Taken from **Diet for a Small Planet.**)

Olin Daycare - Who Pays?

[continued from page 1]

and that it would be cheaper to build a new center from scratch—that is not the way the game-plan is being played, however. In addition Olin will get a nice tax write-off when they hand the unused property over to the city—and will save $7,000 to $8,000 a year in taxes.

Day Care for Whose Children?

What children are going to be eligible for this center? There is some confusion on this point. It will definitely be open to SCCC students—although the number is uncertain. Moshe Reiss, international executive at Olin active in the project, has said also that the center is to provide a "quality pre-school educational experience to disadvantaged children" with a possible "reduction in welfare rolls" as an added benefit. This seems to back up neighborhood fears that their centers might be closed and their children switched to the "model" center.

On the other hand no one denies the facility also might be available to Olin employees (depending on where the money for the program comes from.) The center will have two shifts (coinciding with the company's), and will stay open until 10 at night. This possibility further angers those who feel that day care for Olin Corporation should not be subsidized by the taxpayers.

Many agree on the need for a model "center for early childhood learning" set up by SCCC faculty to be used for on-the-job training. One who objects, however, is Alderman Wilson. Wilson pointed out that "Evaluating 'expertise' in child-care depends on life-style and attitudes—there are different values and objectives for children from Newhallville and from Westville."

"These kids are at a really important age," he went on. "I am not against a training program for child care, but our kids are not going to be guinea pigs. The best place for training is under supervision in the existing centers."

At A Standstill

The Olin day care center project is presently at a standstill—community opposition has forced the city to require neighborhood approval before going ahead. A city staff-member said, "The city has asked Mr. Reiss to contact the neighboring day care center directors, the aldermen, and the parents. If he can sell it to them we'll go along. If the neighborhood is still up in arms, how can we possibly go ahead?" So far this meeting has not taken place.

Even if the community approval comes, however, the basic question—where will the money to *operate* the center come from—remains. A city spokesman was not optimistic. "I dread the moment when we go to the state (for program money) and they say we're giving that area so much and no more. At that point it will be too late for the neighborhood centers."

Nick Heyer

These old buildings have been "generously" offered to the city for a day-care center. The community isn't too happy about the idea of having their neighborhood centers closed to fill up this one. One ironic aspect of the whole story is that Olin's offer came after a two-year study by corporation executives on how the company could "aid" the community.

PERISCOPE

On The Environment

WITHER EDGEWOOD PARK? : JUNE 14 HEARING

For over a year now, Edgewood Park has been closed to cars on weekends and for a significant portion of the summer. This has provided welcome breathing space (rare in New Haven) for bikers, pedestrians, children and pets. The closing was accomplished by a neighborhood petition campaign that produced over 700 signatures and had the support of the New Haven PTA, the Citizens Park Council and the American Youth Hostels.

The car-closing policy had recently been under attack by conservative members of the park board and other car (as opposed to people) oriented politicians. Arguing on "law and order" grounds that the park needs a polic car patrol (they cannot imagine any other), they are pushing for total opening of the park to cars. Their idea of safety is that the park users have the "right" to be maimed by a car, to breathe in the noxious fumes and to trip over trash brought in by cars.

What is needed now is a new public affirmation on keeping cars out of the park, hopefully on a year round basis. A strong public showing at the Edgewood Park hearing on June 14 at Sheridan School is important.

'Impartial Arbitration' No Answer

[continued from page 4]

To strike or not to strike consequently must remain the choice of the union membership. Arbitration of a union agreement takes negotiations out of the hands of the union members, not even allowing them the opportunity of accepting or rejecting.

It would seem that the Steelworkers leadership was on the horns of a dilemma based on previous experience. If there is a strike all the members lose wages, and if there isn't, as many as 100,000 workers might be laid off because of stockpiling.

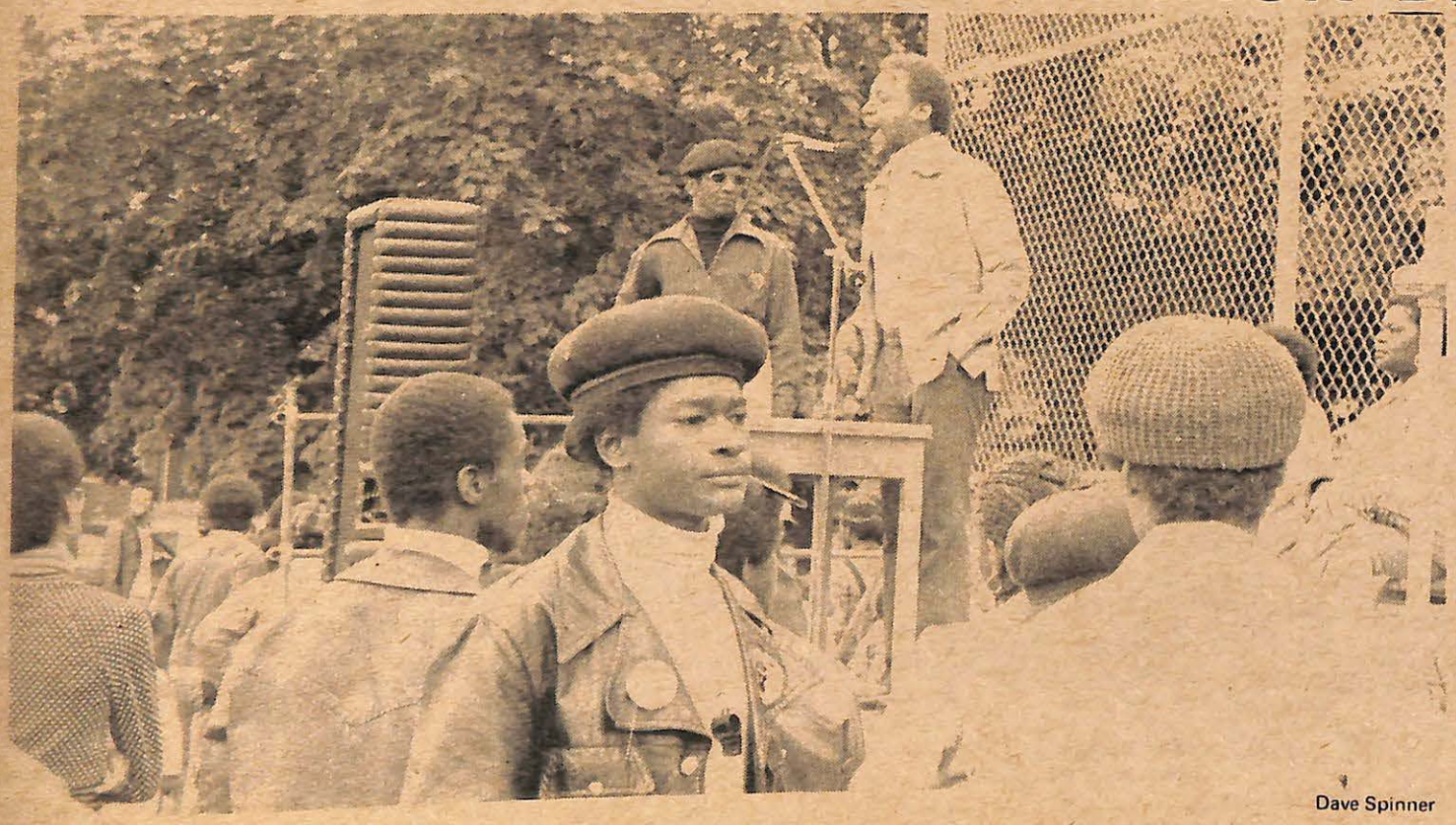
So they found the simplest solution — eliminate the possibility of a strike, and theoretically no one loses wages. But, is this worth depriving the union members of a basic democratic trade union right? On the other hand, after all the contract negotiations the union has been through, they should have been able to devise some techniques to meet the 'stockpiling' trick.

Arbitration has become a common feature in labor relations particularly in the settlement of grievances. Many unions are beginning to find that 'impartial arbitration' is not the answer. It is expensive, time consuming, and as rational as betting on horses. With this experience does it make any sense to put a contract negotiation in the hands of an arbitrator?

Since the steel negotiations are currently in progress and the contract will run until August, 1977, any agreements on wages would have to reflect the potential of increased inflation. At the current rate of inflation it would be impossible to predict living costs four years ahead. Many unions are signing one and two year contracts to avoid this situation.

The Steelworkers agreement might produce 'labor peace' but at the price of a weakened union and a freeze on wages for a long period of time.

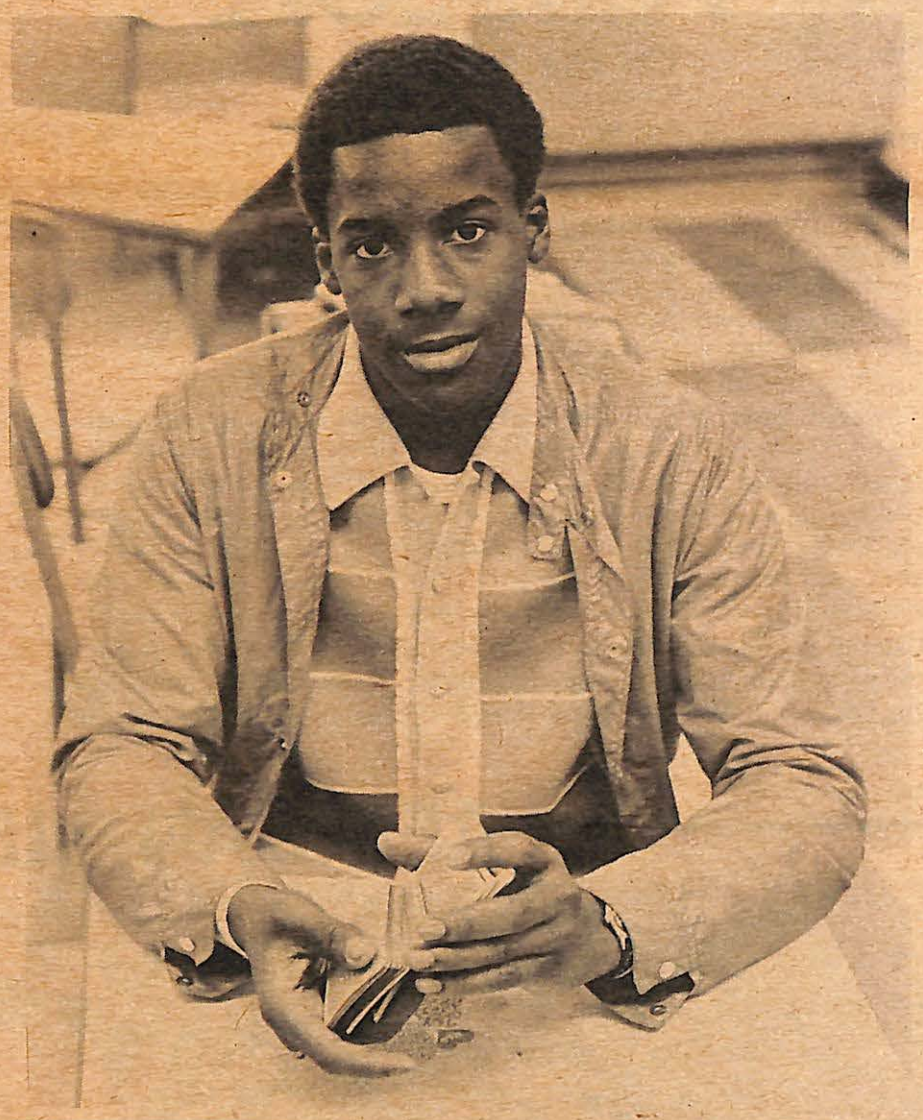
AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY



Dave Spinner

Demonstrators gathered in Beaver Pond Park on May 26 in support of African Liberation Day. The rally was organized by the African Liberation Support Committee, an international coalition of Black social protest, educational, religious and political activists who support the struggles for liberation being waged by African freedom fighters against the European white minority-controlled regimes in South Africa. The ALSC's goal is to awaken the black community to the struggles going on in South Africa, to protest U.S. involvement there and to raise $50,000 through the United African Appeal to support the Liberation Movements in South Africa.

Photos of New Haven by Danny Cahn



There's Too Much Going On To Not Know About

Read MODERN TIMES
SUBSCRIBE !

$5.00 for a year's subscription of 24 issues
$15.00 sponsoring subscription

Please enter my subscription to MODERN TIMES (new___.)
(renewal___).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip ___
(includes mailing costs)

MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
4.8 ¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89

Angela Davis Bookstore Monthly Forum

Tony Monteiro
National YWLL

will discuss

Communist View on Pan Africanism

Sunday, June 10
2:30 p.m.

Dixwell Community House
197 Dixwell Avenue

$1 Students & Unemployed · any contribution